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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)/USSR

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SUBJECT Railroad Directorate Orders Freight Trains for Grain-Shutting Service

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1. On 15 February 1951 the Soviet Zone Directorate General, Railroads, ordered that by 15 March all regional railroad headquarters together were to make available a total of 87 trains of 50 boxcars each. The cars, which had to be fit for transit operations, were to be used for the shipment of grain from the USSR to the Soviet zone of Germany. The Greifswald Regional Railroad Headquarters was ordered to supply 15 such trains.
2. In mid-February the Rolling Stock Division of the Cottbus Regional Railroad Headquarters was ordered by Colonel Shvachko, Soviet control officer attached to the railroad headquarters, to make freight cars available for grain shipments from the USSR. The exact number of cars ordered could not be determined.
3. During the period from 10 to 15 February 1951 the trains which had proceeded to Brest-Litovsk loaded with sugar, returned to Frankfurt/Oder loaded with grain. Previously these trains had returned empty. The grain was directed to the Leipzig area, allegedly to be processed in Saxon mills. This operation continues.
4. On 28 and 29 February 1951 it was observed in Frankfurt/Oder that six to eight empty freight trains of from 90 to 100 axles each were dispatched daily from Frankfurt/Oder to Brest-Litovsk. The trains were to be used for grain shipments. A total of 27,800 tons of grain is supposed to be delivered by the USSR. *

* Comment. Such grain shuttle trains were previously observed in July and August 1950 for a period of four weeks. It has not been determined whether these grain shipments are earmarked for the army of occupation or for civilian consumption. From the number of cars to be made available for such shipments according to paragraph 1 of the present report, it can be inferred that a total of 65,000 tons of grain will be supplied, namely 87 trains of 750 tons each. However, in paragraph 4 of the present report a figure of 27,800 tons was expressly mentioned. This amount would require the employment of only 40 trains. It cannot be

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determined which of the two statements is correct. Reports of rail traffic at the Kuestrin-Kietz (O 53/V 66) and Frankfurt/Oder (O 53/V 63) border crossing points confirmed that grain shuttle trains were seen from mid-February to mid-March [redacted]

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[redacted] It has been determined that the grain trains were dispatched at the Soviet railroad stations of Gerlauen and Brest-Litovsk to Dresden, Leipzig, Eisenach, Rudolstadt, Zwickau, Wurzen, Niederwiesa, Riesa, Halle, Jena-Goslar, Goeschwitz, Camburg, Cottbus, Berlin Ostgüterbahnhof, and Berlin Ostbahnhof. This indicates that most of the grain was directed to Saxony. By the end of March the operation appeared to be still under way.

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[redacted]